

WE CLAIM:

1. A protective packaging sheet comprising:
front and rear surfaces, at least one of the surfaces
5 having a repeating pattern therein,
the repeating pattern consisting of shaped
protuberances juxtaposed with adjacent shaped protuberances
to provide a gap around each shaped protuberance, the
shaped protuberances extending from the at least one of the
10 surfaces and being positioned in such a way that all
straight lines projected onto said surface of the sheet cut
through the shaped protuberances in addition to the gaps.
2. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the protective packaging sheet is embossed to
15 provide the shaped protuberances.
3. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or
claim 2, wherein the front and rear surfaces both include
a repeating pattern with the rear surface pattern being the
inverse of the front surface pattern.
- 20 4. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or
claim 2, wherein the contact surface area of the front
surface is substantially equal to the contact surface area
of the rear surface.
5. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or
25 claim 2, wherein the packaging sheet has three levels, the
front surface, the rear surface and a middle level between
the front and rear surfaces, the middle level comprising a
surface of connecting webs connecting adjacent shaped
protuberances.
- 30 6. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 5,
wherein some of the connecting webs extend in a direction
lateral to the shaped protuberances and others extend in a
direction substantially perpendicular to the lateral
direction.
- 35 7. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or
claim 2, wherein the shaped protuberances are substantially
tessellatable.

8. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the shaped protuberances are "T" shaped in plan.

5 9. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the packaging sheet is formed from a flat sheet of thermoplastics material wherein the distance between the front and rear surfaces of the packaging sheet is less than or equal to about 5 times the thickness of the thermoplastics sheet from which it is formed.

10 10. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the gaps between the shaped protuberances are filled with insulating foam.

15 11. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a thin sheet is laminated to the furthestmost projecting sections of either or both of the front and rear surfaces.

20 12. A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the shaped protuberances comprise a top surface protruding from the packaging sheet atop side walls which are rounded, bevelled or sloped relative to a direction perpendicular to the plane of the packaging sheet.